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OGC Has Reviewed

26 October 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

SUBJECT : Travel - Air Freight and Air Express

REFERENCE : Agency Paragraph 9.B.

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1. Referenced paragraph provides that:

"9. BAGGAGE

"b. Transportation

"Authorized travel expenses will be held to include the cost of transporting articles classified as baggage, above, not accompanying the traveler, up to a maximum of 300 pounds for each person traveling, of which up to 100 pounds of this allowance for each person may be shipped by air express or air freight and any remainder by surface freight or express except that no unaccompanied baggage may be transported by air express or air freight when travel is performed by the exclusive use of surface transportation. The transportation of unaccompanied baggage by air freight, air express, surface freight, or express, must be initiated not later than 30 days after the traveler completes his travel. The shipment of allowable personal baggage shall not be charged against the weight allowance prescribed by the table in paragraph 10c(1) below."

2. The question was raised by the field in FE Division regarding application of the section in PCS travel to Headquarters: (a) from a foreign country to the West Coast, United States, by sea, thence to Headquarters by air; (b) from one foreign country to another by air, thence to the West Coast, U. S., by sea, thence to Headquarters by either air, rail, or auto; and (c) circuitous travel from one foreign country to another by air and then to the East Coast, United States, and Headquarters by sea and rail.

3. The reference is adopted word for word from a regulation of the Foreign Service. Mrs. Harvey of the Foreign Service Travel Section informed me that although they would be very surprised and disappointed if their personnel "let them down" by applying the rule to an exaggerated set of facts, nevertheless, they gave it a literal interpretation, and, as long as the travel was not


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"by exclusive use of surface transportation," air express or air freight would be permitted. (I had suggested to her that a literal application of the rule would apply to the situation where an individual overseas entrained for a port of departure, then sailed by sea to the United States, and then, perhaps, resorted to air for only a small portion of the trip from the port of debarkation to Headquarters. She felt that the rule would still apply subject to the observation indicated above, with consideration given to Section 1 of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations, stating, in pertinent part: "Employees traveling on official business * * * are expected to exercise the same care in incurring expenses that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business.") Asked if this would also apply in the case of a person traveling by circuitous route as long as any portion of the travel was by air, she replied in the affirmative.

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Office of General Counsel

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